

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 08554 241837Z

66

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-03 PRS-01

USIA-15 RSR-01 SS-15 NSC-10 DOTE-00 /112 W

----- 041821

R 241830Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2867

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

FAA BRUSSELS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, IN

SUBJECT: AVIATION SAFETY IN INDIA

REF: NEW DELHI 8500

1. ARTICLE REFERRED TO IN REFTEL APPEARED IN THE  
OBSERVER, SUNDAY, JULY 22, AND IS QUOTED BELOW.

"A TOTAL BAN ON FLIGHTS IN AND OUT OF INDIA MAY BE  
IMPOSED BY THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF AIRLINE PILOTS  
BECAUSE OF COMPLAINTS FROM AIRLINER CAPTAINS ABOUT SAFETY  
AT THE MAIN AIRPORTS, PARTICULARLY NEW DELHI AND CALCUTTA.  
THE COMPLAINTS CAME TO A HEAD LAST WEEK WHEN ONLY GOOD  
FORTUNE AND GOOD SENSE BY A PILOT AVOIDED A MAJOR DISAS-  
TER TO A QANTAS BOEING 707. THE AUSTRALIAN JET, ON FINAL  
DESCENT TO NEW DELHI THROUGH DENSE, LOW CLOUDS, WAS  
MAKING AN INSTRUMENT LANDING. ONLY SECONDS BEFORE IT  
WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO LATE TO ABORT THE LANDING THE PILOT  
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DISCOVERED THAT THE DELHI AIRPORT'S INSTRUMENT LANDING

SYSTEM (ILS) WAS INDICATING A WRONG ANGLE OF APPROACH,  
AND HE WAS FORCED TO MAKE A LAST MINUTE VISUAL TOUCHDOWN.  
QANTAS HAS PROTESTED TO THE INDIAN AUTHORITIES ABOUT MAL-  
FUNCTIONING EQUIPMENT AND WRONG INFORMATION GIVEN TO THE  
PILOT. WHAT ESPECIALLY WORRIES PILOTS IS THAT THE QANTAS  
INCIDENT OCCURRED ONLY SIX WEEKS AFTER AN INDIAN AIRLINES  
BOEING 737 CRASHED ON ITS APPROACH TO NEW DELHI, WITH THE  
LOSS OF 48 LIVES, IN SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES. A FULL DOS-  
SIER IS BEING SENT TO THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
AIRLINE PILOTS BY AIRCREW WHO ARE UNHAPPY ABOUT THE SITUA-  
TION. ONE PILOT HAS SAID THAT HE HAS HAD PERSONAL

EXPERIENCE '15 TO 20 TIMES' OF NAVIGATIONAL AIDS GOING  
WRONG."

ANNENBERG

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 JUL 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** worrelsw  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LONDON08554  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730714/aaaaakhh.tel  
**Line Count:** 77  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 NEW DELHI 8500  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** worrelsw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08-Aug-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <15-Aug-2001 by worrelsw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** AVIATION SAFETY IN INDIA  
**TAGS:** ETRN, IN  
**To:** n/a  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005